

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please enter the patent claims annexed as amended sheets to the international preliminary examination report, and amend the English translation of those patent claims as follows.

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (New) A method for operating an apparatus for hydroforming a blank with the aid of a high-pressure fluid which includes a die having a receiving space for the blank, comprising:

removing residual fluid which is present in the receiving space from the receiving space through a passage prior to deformation of the blank, and

thereafter feeding lubricant to the receiving space and supplying high-pressure fluid to the interior of the blank.

6. (New) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein removal of residual fluid is assisted by application of a subatmospheric pressure or a superatmospheric pressure to the passage.

7. (New) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein, prior to deformation of the blank, residual fluid located in the receiving space is removed from the receiving space through the passage by feeding lubricant to the

receiving space in order to displace the residual fluid, and wherein high-pressure fluid is thereafter supplied to the interior of the blank.

8. (New) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the lubricant is a low-viscosity lubricant.

9. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the lubricant is a low-viscosity lubricant.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the lubricant is a low-viscosity lubricant.